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The Alledger

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# The Alledger

Vol. X, No. 5

Boston College Law School

December 7, 1989

## French, Santacroce Take Top Honors in Mock Trial Competition



Marie Santacroce



Jennifer French

By Mike Klein

It pleased the court on November 18 when 3L's Jennifer French and Marie Santacroce successfully represented the plaintiff in *Boyd v. Deaver* and won BCLS's mock trial competition.

The finals took place before Judge John Pino, a Superior Court judge for the Boston Municipal Court, and about 50 spectators in Room 315. French, named best oralist, and Santacroce represented Robin Boyd in his actions against Hollis Deaver, a police officer who falsely arrested Boyd. Three-L's Brenda Sharton and Joseph Curtin represented the defendant.

The facts at the trial were based on an actual case in Milton, Massachusetts. Controversy centered around Boyd's arrest, which occurred in a driveway while Boyd waited in his car for his daughter at the house of one of her friends. Accounts differed about Deaver's use of force and Boyd's cooperativeness in showing identification. Each student portraying a witness turned in an Oscar-deserving performance. One-L Jeff Bagnell was Boyd, 3L Kevin Molloy played Deaver, 3L Kirilyn Joseph was Dr. Leslie Argyle, and 3L John Hayes portrayed the socially-conscious and unnerved Lynn Patter. Karen Mendalka showed quartz-like precision as the time-counting bailiff.

The finals culminated weeks of competition among thirty third-year teams. As winners of the competition, French and Santacroce will represent BCLS at the regionals, which will be held here. BCLS teams have won eight of the last nine regionals. The national finals will be in Houston in April.

This year's winners will also comprise half of the four-member national mock trial team. The coaches of the team, Daryl Mook and Frank Santizi, will help to select the other two members of the team.

"We're very happy that we won but relieved that it's over," said Santacroce, who was a finalist with French in last year's moot court competition. French said, "I really learned a lot from the competition. It's something everyone should do, even if they don't want to be litigators."

Their opponents agreed. "It's the most fun and educational experience I've been through in law school," Sharton said. "A lot of people did tons of work for the competition, and I appreciate all the hours of work that the BSA [Board of Student Advisors] put in." Curtin said, "I was exceedingly impressed with the caliber of all the participants. Everyone we went against could have been in the finals. The whole thing was very well run."

Credit for organizing the competition goes to alumnus Jay Carney and the mock trial chairpersons for the BSA, 3L's Kimberly Motley-Phillips and Rob Fox. "Many students and attorneys who helped us with the competition put in many late hours," Motley-Phillips said. "I give credit to all the teams. They had enthusiasm and were all well prepared." Fox said, "It was interesting to see how much teams improved over the course of the competition. Mock trial really gives you an opportunity to think on your feet. And one of the most valuable parts of the competition is the feedback you get from your judges."

Judge Pino praised the finalists after the trial and offered advice on how to approach future court appearances. "When you're trying a case, you're in a war. It's not a game. You've got to sell your client like a salesman sells a vacuum cleaner. I require four things of a lawyer: to know everything the client knows, to think like the client thinks, to feel like the client feels, and to speak as if the client had your training and experience. If you can't do that, you won't sell your product."

## Sen. Kerry Slated to Deliver Graduation Speech

By Bob Daniszewski

Graduation activities for the class of 1990 are quickly coming into focus, with the announcement that Senator John F. Kerry (D-Mass) will deliver the commencement address.

A 1976 graduate of BCLS, Senator Kerry has accepted the law school's invitation to speak at the May 27 commencement ceremony. According to the LSA, Kerry's reputation as a leader on major issues such as foreign affairs, drug trafficking, and the environment produced an enthusiastic response from third-year students who were polled on their choices for graduation speakers.

Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, former state prosecutor, and former lieutenant governor, will receive the Founder's Medal, which was created in 1988 to serve as the highest award bestowed by the law school. Previous recipients include last year's commencement speaker, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine), and Harvard Law School Professor Lawrence Tribe, who addressed the Class of '88.

The LSA has also found a location for a graduation ball to be held on the evening of Friday, May 25. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Boston will host the annual bash, which, along with other graduation activities, is subsidized by the LSA.

LSA President John Reilly encourages all third-year students to attend the ball, which he says should be thought of as a class party. "We want everyone to attend, whether or not they're in a tuxedo and whether or not they bring a date," Reilly said.

The selection of the Ritz-Carlton as the venue for the ball is a departure from the patterns of graduation activities that has been set in the past few years. Traditionally, the ball has been held at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, but that facility was unavailable when the LSA sought to reserve it.

The search for a replacement facility was not easy, said LSA 3L Representative Ellen Begley. "Talking to one place in Newport was like trying to talk your grandmother into letting you borrow her house for a party," she said.

Plans for a graduation "booze cruise" are in serious jeopardy, Begley said. New policies requiring that food be provided apparently have put the cost of sponsoring such an event out of reach.

Barring the possibility that a benefactor will step forward and offer the use of his or her yacht for a booze cruise, the LSA is shopping around for a replacement event. Anyone who has ideas on this subject is strongly encouraged to share them with the LSA.



# ASK THE ALLEDGER

By  
Mark Hoerrner

## Question 1

DEAR ALLEDGER:

How did we get such big pot holes in the roads and parking lots of the Newton Campus? W.C. 1L

DEAR W.C.:

Good Gravy, what do you think I am, some kind of scientist? While I do not know the source of the pot holes (I suspect shoddy workmanship on the roads), I do know that the BCLS administration is prepared to capitalize on them. Never one to miss an opportunity to make a buck, Dean Coquillette has scheduled several lavish and expensive whitewater rafting trips through the pot holes. No trips will take place this season, however, because the Dean has already rented out the pot holes to a television production company which is filming a "Brady Bunch" reunion special in which Bobby and Cindy get lost in a pot hole. Great fun should be had by all.

## Question 2

DEAR ALLEDGER:

Why is the *Alledger* so offensive? S.U.B. 3L

DEAR S.U.B.:

Here at the *Alledger*, we have a deal with the bank. They don't offend people, and we don't cash checks.

## Question 3

DEAR ALLEDGER:

What position is best to assume while sleeping at the library? J.O. 1L

DEAR J.O.:

Hallelujah, finally a question I can answer from experience! My favorite sleeping position in the library consists of sitting with my arms folded on the table and my head resting on my arms.

However, this pose leads to the library napper's worst nightmare, wrinkle marks on the forehead which do not disappear for approximately 15 minutes! Additionally, library patrons using this position risk encountering the napper's second-worst enemy, drool. My personal advice to avoid these menaces is to go home and sleep, because by sleeping in the library you're not fooling anyone into believing that you're actually studying.

## Question 4

DEAR ALLEDGER:

Is it true that BCLS Assistant Dean Robert Smith once shot a man for snoring too loudly? R.G.S. 2L

DEAR R.G.S.:

Another rumor about Dean Smith's checkered past! Although *Alledger* research was not able to confirm or deny your allegation, we believe you are confusing the Dean with Wild West legend Billy The Kid. The only rumor about the Dean's shadowy history which our extremely reliable source would confirm is that Dean Smith was once the construction worker in the singing group "The Village People." No wonder he always wants to go to the "Y."

## Question 5

DEAR ALLEDGER:

The other day, I shaped a wire antenna into the shape of an ancient Egyptian symbol and pointed it at Stonehenge. Then, a surge of power rushed through my body, knocking me unconscious. What happened? T.L.B. 3L

DEAR T.L.B.

I'm dismissing it as chance.

## Question 6

DEAR ALLEDGER:

Let me get this straight. Dean Coquillette is going to take a leave of absence, so Dean Smith

will fill in for him. Dean Smith will need someone to take over academic affairs, so Mark Brodin will fill in. Won't these moves have a ripple effect throughout the law school administration? B.O.K., 3L

DEAR B.O.K.:

And beyond! With Professor Brodin taking the academic helm, the school needed an intelligent person with funny hair to occupy his office. So, 3L John Hayes has agreed to step in. But that created a vacancy for an opinionated crank. Consequently, Mary the cafeteria lady was called up to fill in for John. As you can see, everyone eventually will be affected by the Dean's ill-timed hiatus!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We debated for a long time over the adjectives used in the preceding Ask the Alledger answer. The following modifiers were rejected:

"strongheaded"

"with a heart as good as gold"

"jackass"

We hope you find this and every article in the *Alledger* to be up to our usual high standards of humor and good taste.



Wild West legend?

## The Alledger

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## CHRISTMAS LOOK-A-LIKES



Mr. Magoo as Ebenezer Scrooge.



Mr. Coquillette as Mr. Magoo as Ebenezer Scrooge.



Herbie the Elf.



Rogers the Professor.



## COMMENTARY

By Mike Klein

Well, it sure does seem to be the Christmas season. Jack Frost has been nipping at my nose, the sun seems to set somewhere around 2 pm, and the potholes in the BCLS parking lots are large enough to house the entire population of Liechtenstein.

What's with the new "moonscape" look to the BCLS campus? Are we in some sort of bizarre competition with the other law schools in the area? I can see the new applications brochure now: "Boston College Law School has students who averaged 40 on the LSAT and had an average GPA of 3.46. Each member of the faculty publishes two articles per year, and the library has an extensive collection. And the potholes provide landing space for small aircraft in the greater Newton area."

Maybe we shouldn't be so cynical. Those holes could provide real practical purposes. For students who hear their name called in class, they can now dive into a REAL foxhole and disappear. By the spring, there should be at least 18 holes out there, and the LSA can hold its annual golf tournament right here on campus. And a new event can be added on Field Day: the death-defying obstacle course across the parking lot.

Those obstacles seem to be a target for the shuttle buses. Life in the "BC Lane" was dangerous enough when the buses came whipping off Centre Street, defying every living creature to get in their path. Now, the bus drivers map out a strategy to lull the cars into a false sense of security. Just when you think that the bus coming at you will give you room to get by, it suddenly swerves into you, forcing you into one of the many craters on the side of the road. One friend of mine swears he heard the bus driver say, "Eat tarmac and die!"

But seriously, folks. Before a real accident happens, let's get those holes filled. This is not what we meant when we asked for more "parking space."

*Editor's note: Since this editorial was written, most of the potholes have been filled. Never mind.*

# The Night Before Finals, Part II

By Mike Klein  
(with continuing apologies to Clement C. Moore)

*'Twas the night before finals when up in  
Valdez  
The creatures were stirring in glop to their  
knees.  
No stockings were hanging in Prince  
William Sound:  
The oil kept everything stuck to the ground.*

*The workshop of Santa up at the North Pole  
Was staring deep into a financial hole.  
The reindeer, while landing, broke their legs  
on the slick,  
And the fumes from the petrol had made the  
elves sick.*

*It looked like this Christmas'd be chalked  
for a loss  
All because Hazlewood'd been hitting the  
sauce.  
To Santa it seemed there was one thing to  
do:  
Call the lawyers of Exxon and threaten to  
sue!*

*Santa had nestled down into his bed  
While visions of millions rang up in his  
head.  
When suddenly a look of concern crossed his  
face  
As St. Nick considered the strength of his  
case.*

*At midnight he dialed the staff at B.C.  
Where a voice assured Santa, "I invite you  
to see  
"The theories of justice we surely have  
mastered  
"We'll be able to stick it to those corporate  
bastards!"*

*"The Clean Water Act lets the U.S. recoup  
"All costs it incurred while removing the  
goop.  
"But the winning of really big bucks from  
the court  
"Necessitates principles learned way back in  
Torts."*

*"For causing the otters their mental distress  
"We will reduce Exxon to a gas pump for  
Hess.  
"The land's not enjoyed any more by the  
mooses  
"So they have a claim upon ol' private  
nuisance."*

*These actions and others the court it did  
hear  
Along with eyewitness reports from reindeer.  
The jury soon punished those spillers of  
crude;  
In the spirit of Christmas, defendants were  
Scrooged.*

*The counsel for Exxon were quick to appeal  
For surely the Justices knew how they feel.  
At best, counsel hoped for a J.N.O.V.  
Or at least reduced costs, alternatively.*

*But the majority said that the verdict  
stands firm  
And thus brought an end to the '89 term.  
Chief Rehnquist dissented and said, "Don't  
you see,  
No fuss would be made of this spill in  
Jersey."*

*As he hooked up his team to the front of his  
sleigh  
St. Nick knew that Justice had carried the  
day.  
We wished the same luck to each mister and  
ma'am  
On all of your final first semester "exams."*

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# LSA UPDATE

By John Reilly

As the first semester comes to a close, the officers of the L.S.A. felt that this would be a good opportunity to bring the student body up to date with what has been taking place. It is hard to organize these many distinct efforts, so I will try to group them at least semi-coherently.

## OFFICE AND SCHOOL

The beginning of the year Book co-op was the biggest we have had, and we hope students will respond with their books to sell for the second semester, which can be dropped off on January 8, 9, and 10. There are also still some checks that will be voided if not picked up by that time, so stop by if you think you might have one. Parking appeals will continue to flow through the L.S.A. The response has been good, and we can help fill out the form and word the appeal in the proper way. Those appeals handed in have been largely successful, mostly due to the understanding of Marjorie Sherman, who defends the Law School appeals on the committee.

The response to the L.S.A. committees was excellent and we are still trying to hook up students with committee openings as the faculty presents them to us. A list of the committees is available in the office. We will continue to ask for volunteers to show up at hiring meetings for prospective faculty as the need arises—it is important to have student input, and if you are interested in sitting in when the students question the prospectives, please drop your name at the office with Glenn Deegan. The ongoing concern over individual student's rights to free speech in the class room was quickly handled and the administration responded positively. A proposal to have written rules with regards to procedures when students run into problems in the classroom will be presented to the faculty early next semester. Thanks to Marie Santacrocce and Chris Hisenberger for their efforts.

The L.S.A. budget for this year has been finalized and is available for your perusal in the office. It is subject to modification. In addition, the executive committee of the L.S.A. continues to meet on Fridays at 12:00 pm. It has worked out that any student with a question or grievance can stop in shortly after 12:15. The majority of problems presented this way, and through the class reps, have been looked into.

Concerning the school itself. The student lounge is due for a Christmas cleaning as an interim measure to its total remodeling this summer. The L.S.A. has set up a Poland Springs water dispenser with cold and hot water for student use. This was in response to the quality, cost and availability of water in the school. This water can be used to make instant coffee, tea etc... Furthermore, we have ordered an "industrial strength" microwave which will be installed over break, at which time the refrigerator will be cleaned and put back into operation. We hope that all these appliances will be looked out for carefully and cleaned and policed by the students for the benefit of all and because we can't afford to replace them again.

In response to student complaints, the L.S.A. first year reps compiled two investigative



The LSA: *Top row:* Ellen Begley, Rich Cordes, John Reilly, Scott Toomey; *Middle row:* Maura Mottolese, Alissa Spielberg, Alison Kaminski, Cindy Rowe; *Front row:* Steve Ferrucci, John Henry, B. Dane Dudley, Glenn Deegan.

reports that were recently presented to the deans committee. The first called for the installation of a permanent member of the main campus physical plant right here on the Newton Campus. We hope that this request will be fulfilled and that minor repairs and installations will not take so long or go through quite as much red tape. The second concerned the revamping of the cafeteria. The Main Campus right now has plans to remodel the Stuart Cafeteria for the freshman student use. The plans, as of now, include an atrium area that will be built into part of the courtyard area. As this takes away from traditional law school space and enjoyment, and because our needs in the cafeteria area are ignored, we wrote up a report requesting that any new area include an expanded law school-oriented serving space that will have a better menu than the sandwich/soup area and which would operate solely on a cash basis so that the prices would reflect that we are not on a point system meal plan. We will keep you updated on progress here.

## MAIN CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The law school is represented by the L.S.A. on the Academic Counsel and on the Core Curriculum committees. These meetings are chaired by the leaders of both the main campus and the law school and decide important future issues and trends. They also provide a readily available sounding board for law school concerns. If you have ideas or problems that you want brought up in such a forum, please see me anytime. Furthermore, the funding for the graduate student center has been approved and an architect has been hired to draw up plans that would house up to 700 graduate students on the Newton Campus within three years of groundbreaking. While this housing will probably not affect the three present classes, it is still important that this housing is planned with the proper needs of the law student in mind. Therefore we encourage suggestions and we hope to have representation on the planning committee — this is a big deal as far as future growth and respect is concerned. Finally, for the first time, we have set up a working relationship with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and hope to interact with them more in the future. Thanks goes there to business-law student Tom Camp for bridging the gap. The newsletter and the upcoming activities of the main campus grads are available in the library. We hope to have another social function with them in the Spring.

## SPEAKERS/ STUDENT GROUPS/AND SOCIALS

The "three S's" of the L.S.A. have all progressed smoothly so far. The L.S.A. revamped speakers committee will kick into high gear early next semester sponsoring the "governors series" - a series of speeches by the

potential candidates for governor of this fiscal nightmare of a state. We hope these speeches will be attended regardless of party affiliation. They should prove lively and informative. Secondly, in light of recent world events, the L.S.A. will sponsor international speakers and co-sponsor an international forum concerning the changes in European politics. Matt Nestor could still use help on this committee, so drop him a note at the office, especially if you have any connection to an interesting speaker.

The student groups have been supported as much as possible on our tight budget, and we will continue to support events like the PILF raffle in the future. I will stick a couple of third year committee reports in here also. The yearbook is set and well done, special thanks to Maribeth Petrizzi, Steve Ferucci and Maria Rodriguez for finding time to put it all together for the rest of us. The third year graduation plans are outlined in another article, but I will mention that we are excited by the downtown Ritz event and by securing a speaker that was requested by the student poll and who is an alum. Steve Ferucci and Ellen Begley will continue to update you on these events including times to pick up gowns and invitations.

On the social scene, the new bar review format of using bartenders has worked well. The budget is tight here but we hope to continue to avoid having to ask you to "dig deep." We will probably expand the use of the lotteries next semester, including the NCAA pool. We hope to see the return of the third years to Bar Review next semester. The major social events at the Son's of Italy have worked well and we continue to look into other avenues for major social events. Special thanks here to Maura Mottolese, Ron Joseph, Joan Redleaf and Dan Russo who spend a great deal of time running all the social events - so buy them a beer sometime. On that line, next semester has two events already planned to complement the March party and the year ending field day. The first is the "Dean's Prom" a highly successful event from last year that will take place in February. The theme this year will probably be the roaring twenties in honor of the sixtieth anniversary of the school. And on that line, the Dean is also throwing a major event in early April in the downtown area to mark this occasion. This will be open to the whole student body and will act as our first attempt at a Barrister's ball. John Henry is looking for members on both these committees.

Once again, the office door remains open to your questions and complaints or just to visit. The class reps and the committee heads have done an excellent job thus far and deserve thanks. They work under the same time constraints we all have, but find time to put in the effort. If you feel improvements are needed we ask not only for your suggestions but for your presence. Thanks.

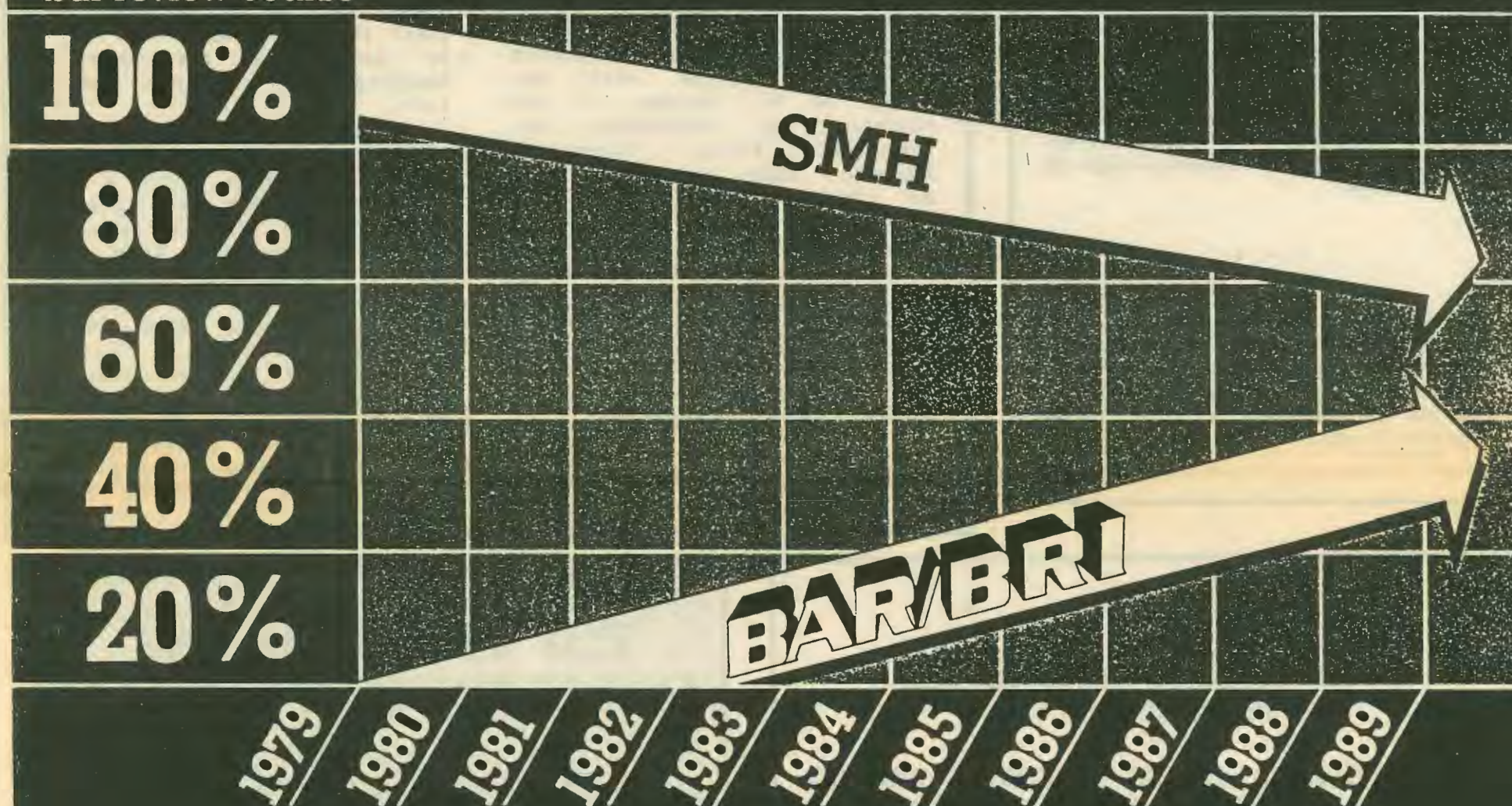


John Henry Displays New Water Cooler.



# Massachusetts Bar Review Course Enrollments

Percentage of  
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## PLACEMENT NEWS

The Career Planning and Placement Office will be sponsoring the following seminars during the Spring semester.

Program	Date
2L's Talk to 1L's	January 12
Careers in Litigation	January 19
Sports & Entertainment Law	January 22
Environmental Law	January 29
Alternative Careers	March 2
Balancing Life and Career	March 9

These programs are open to all BCLS students. The Placement Office encourages first year students to attend the Spring programs in order to become focused on some of the specialties and career paths available to law school graduates.

Placement Director Jean French said that a good turnout is important in maintaining such an extensive slate of programs. "The speakers we invite take time from their busy practices and often come to BCLS from a great distance," she said. "We want them to feel wanted and welcome."

In addition to these programs, the Placement Office will hold a series of workshops beginning shortly after Winter break. Workshops will be offered in resume writing, job-search techniques and interviewing skills. Sign-ups for these activities will take place on the week of January 8 and the workshops themselves will begin the following week.

\* \* \*

The Placement Office also asks students to return their program evaluation questionnaires. The information gathered from these surveys helps the office to provide programs that are responsive to students' needs and desires.

## Movie Review

by Kevin O'Leary

Woody Allen's new movie reminds me of a Greek tragedy run amuck. A woman is murdered. Men and women speak words about life, death, and morality. But the Furies, fiery gods of retribution, never show up. *Crimes and Misdemeanors* is a very disturbing film. It challenges many assumptions, one of them being that the guilty are punished for their misdeeds.

Working from the successful two-story film formula used in *Hannah and Her Sisters*, Allen tells two grim tales in *Crimes and Misdemeanors*. The first story involves an ophthalmologist who murders his mistress to keep her from destroying his career and family by revealing their affair and his business improprieties. Jonah (Martin Landau) struggles with the weight of his decision to hire someone to eliminate his longtime lover (Angelica Huston). After the deed is done, he continues to struggle with the horror of it, the fear of punishment, and even the disgusting ease with which it was completed. The fire and brimstone words of Jonah's father ("the eyes of God see all") meld in Jonah's mind with the strong, quiet wisdom of his rabbi, Ben (portrayed to perfection by Sam Waterston). As time passes, Jonah discovers that he can, indeed, live with

his actions. The police accept his innocence, but will he be called upon to atone for his sin? It is perhaps too great an assumption to state that Allen's answer is "no." The question is left dangling at the end of the film, though the symbolism behind Ben's gradual loss of sight and eventual blindness is hard to ignore.

In the parallel story of the film, Allen plays an independent filmmaker. In order to fund his main project, he accepts a job producing a documentary on his despised brother-in-law (Alan Alda), a successful television sitcom producer. Though this story has its funny moments, it is not free of tragedy. Allen's marriage is dead, his hopes for a new romance with a co-worker (Mia Farrow) are never realized, and his main project comes to an abrupt and tragic end. Woody Allen discards his usual neurotic character and plays the romantic. His refusal to compromise his character bankrupts him in life and in love.

The movie ends with Allen and Landau meeting at a wedding. Landau offers a story about a murderer who goes on with his life after a temporary period of remorse. Allen states that a better story would end with a guilt-ridden confession (see *Crimes and Punishment*). Landau accepts Allen's criticism but explains that his own version is more true to life. *Crimes and Misdemeanors* cuts through the picture of how life is supposed to be and offers a dark vision of really is.

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## TOP TEN REASONS IN DEFENSE OF EXAMS

10. They keep us off the streets.

9. With winter setting in, we're sure to be warm while huddling together in the library. But please—no snuggling by the superceded volumes of the U.S. Code on the fourth floor.

8. They make festive party favors at Christmas events. In fact, new red-and-green exam books will replace the traditional "bluebooks," which are white anyway.

7. Guys don't have to shave, and ladies don't have to wear makeup.

6. They provide great legal training. What could fit the "arbitrary and capricious" test better than an issue-spotting exam?

5. They help forge the timeless bond between generations of lawyers, each one dumber than the one before for not asking, "Isn't there any OTHER way we could be evaluated?"

4. They improve our powers of procrastination. Write letters to friends, make shopping lists, and calculate all of your possible GPA's depending on the outcome of these tests.

3. They give you time to catch up on all your back issues of the *Alledger*.

2. Post-exam celebration help support the local liquor industry. And the Number One reason in defense of exams...

1. Bo knows contracts.

By Mike Klein



# Christmas Hot Wax

By David Wyckoff

There's nothing that raises my ire quicker than seeing or hearing Christmas advertisements before Thanksgiving—except if they're for Christmas music. The late-night TV ads for a Slim Whitman Christmas, the afternoon mid-movie intermission of a retread Charlie Chan hawking "Country's Aw-Shucks Christmas" that features the likes of Minnie Pearl, Dolly Parton and Boxcar Willie or the inevitable "Vienna Boys Choir Christmas, Volume 12"—middle America tugs at my heart-strings.

In my book, you can never plan too far ahead when it comes to Christmas music, especially when it's rock 'n' roll, country, R & B or crooners. With that right mix of campy corn and pure nostalgia, you can't help but start to feel that Christmas spirit, replete with primal yearnings for eggnog, mistletoe kisses and large charge-card bills.

Up until just a couple of years ago, a trip to the Christmas music bin in a local record store was the pre-holiday version of coal-in-your-stocking on Christmas morn. Sure, the old favorites were there—Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Jim Nabors—but how many times can one listen to "Mele Kalikimaka" or "White Christmas"?

So, what follows is both a list of indispensable albums and personal (and highly idiosyncratic) favorites, designed to soften the heart of the most resolute Scrooge:

**BRING IN THE FAMILY:** No Christmas season should pass without the family gathered around the TV for "A Charlie Brown Christmas," and likewise the soundtrack album (Fantasy) by Vince Guaraldi should grace the X-mas collections of devotees and casual fans alike. I'll admit that I always get a little misty-eyed. From here, individual tastes can lead a family in many directions—from soundtracks to their favorite TV specials (Burl Ives' "Frosty The Snowman" or "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer," for example) or to the names that graced the HiFis of our parents' youth (Barbra Streisand and the aforementioned Bing Crosby and Perry Como). Further suggestions run to orchestral or choir works of the real Christmas classics—just about any version of Handel's "Messiah" or, my own fave, Rykodisc's two-CD "Carols for Christmas" package from the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir and Royal College of Music Brass Ensemble will do.

**HANGIN' ORNAMENTS TO THE HITS:** In conjunction with its series of Billboard top-pop hits, Rhino has released a pair of albums of chart-topping Yule fare entitled "Billboard's Greatest Hits" with one volume focusing on the year's 1934 to 1954 and the other 1955 to the present. Don't just go out and buy 'em 'cuz I work for Billboard; do it because they include the songs that no right-minded gift-giver or receiver would want to be without—Bing's ubiquitous "White Christmas," Nat "King" Cole's fireside chestnut "The Christmas Song," Bobby Helms' eminently hummable "Jingle Bell Rock" and, since no home should be without the King during the holidays, Elvis' "Blue Christmas."

**FEELIN' LONELY:** Another pair of Rhino releases ought to send you over the edge ("Bummed Out Christmas") or make you laugh so hard that you could survive any depression ("Dr. Demento Presents The Greatest Christmas Novelty CD"). Either way, you'll have good reason to slip a little extra of the hooch into the eggnog.

**ROCKIN' 'ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE:** Once again, Rhino overs all the bases. Still greasing your hair back and driving that vintage Harley? Then check out the two volumes of "Rockin' Christmas." The '50s album rings in on the doowop and R & B sides, while the '60s version bounces back and forth between rock 'n' roll (Paul Revere, the Turtles, the Sonics and the Wailers) and Southern soul wizards (James Brown and Aretha Franklin).

Mainstream (or any other kinds of tastes) should look to Rhino's "Christmas Classics" CD or the two volumes of "Cool Yule." "Classics" features some of the biggest names of the '50s, '60s and '70s—Brenda Lee, the Drifters, the Supremes, Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry, James Brown and Stevie Wonder—and, with 18 songs, is a bargain that will leave your wallet full enough to buy another present or two. "Cool Yule" 's volume I is filled with some of rock 'n' roll and soul's greatest Yuletide moments—Clarence Carter's truly salacious "Back Door Santa," Solomon Burke's oh-so-generous "Christmas Presents," Chuck Berry's motorvatin' "Run Rudolph Run" and James Brown's socially conscious "Santa Claus Go Straight To The Ghetto." It closes with the title cut, hipster Edd "Kookie" Barnes' rendition of "A Night Before Christmas" in true '50s beat (as in "nick") lingo. The second volume runs towards less-known but equally entertaining names and songs. Listen closely for Huey Smith singing "round, young Virgin" to a rock beat and discover why record censorship demands even reaches Christmas music.

**GOIN' SOUTH FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Hey, just 'cuz there isn't much snow in the South (and they use, of all things, plastic trees), doesn't mean that the Christmas spirit don't flow south of the Mason-Dixon line. Currently out-of-print is Atco's "Soul Christmas" album, which is something of a crime considering that Atlantic was the home to some of America's best soul and R&B artists. Almost as entertaining is Stax's "It's Christmas Time Again," which features singers from the Memphis soul label's latter years (Albert King, Little Johnny Taylor, the Staple Singers). One of the most inspired of all Christmas albums is "An Austin Rhythm & Blue Christmas," originally released on the small Austin label and now available on Epic. It features some of Texas' best blues/R & B/rock talent with the likes of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Angela Strehli, Lou Ann Barton and Sarah Brown performing originals and classics. Not to be forgotten are a pair of Starday albums—"Merry Christmas Baby" and "Please Come Home For Christmas"—that chime in on the bluesy side and feature, among others, the definitive blues Christmas singer and songwriter (singer of both title tracks) Charles Brown. Fans of the Godfather of Soul, who won't be out of jail for Christmas, are required to purchase Rhino "Santa's Got A Brand New Bag," if for no other reason than to hear Butane James wax poetic about the modern development of football, ski bunny movies and boogie-down dance grooves in "Go Power At Christmas Time."

**LONG LIVE THE KING:** The Enquirer says that Elvis works as a truck driver who travels about this great country downing slurpees and peanut butter sandwiches while disguised by body fat and mutton-chop side burns that obscure his identity to all but the truest of believers. Not true! His real spirit lives in his three RCA Christmas albums—"Elvis Sings The Wonderful World of Christmas," "Memories of Christmas" and "Elvis' Christmas Album." Just imagine the King at his most risqué (the aforementioned "Santa Claus Is Back In Town"), dispondent ("Blue Christmas") and

traditional ("O Come All Ye Faithful")—and remember Elvis can never die so long as you cue him up every holiday season.

**SANTA DONE GOT HIP:** Yes, it's the title of doowop's greatest Christmas song, cut by the Marquees many years ago. Hipsters and jazz-bos always have refreshing visions on modern life, and with Christmas, they go right over the edge. One of Rhino's latest batch is "Hipsters' Holiday, Vocal Jazz and R & B Classics," guaranteed addition to all-time Yule top-10. Anything with Louis Armstrong singing 'bout Christmas tickles my fancy, and it contains three Satchmo delights—"Cool Yule," "Zat You, Santa Claus" (covered a couple of years back by latter-day lounge hipster Buster Poin-dexter) and "Christmas Night In Harlem." It's not quite perfect, however, for it doesn't include two personal jazz favorites—Armstrong's reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and Ella Fitzgerald's lurid "Santa Claus Got Stuck In My Chimney" ("... when he came this year"). They can be found on the little-known "The Stash Christmas Album" with a half-dozen other big band chestnuts.

Most don't consider pimply geeks who wear high-heeled boots hip, but when they made producer/songwriter Phil Spector, hipness took on new meaning. What all of this means is that Mr. Spector, the genius behind the hits of the Ronettes, the Crystals and Arlene Love, made himself one Christmas album ("A Christmas Gift For You From Phil Spector") so memorable that my parents and I reach for it every year. The album features the singing talents of the aforementioned artists (plus the aptly named Bob B. Soxx and the Blue jeans), but from there, it's all this show. He imbues each and every song with his highly dramatic style, something like the adolescent pop version of a Wagner opera. Highlights include the wonderfully innocent "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and Darlene Love's imagistic "Marsh-mellow World." A must for any and all listeners (and definitely preferable to the more famous X-Mas album from those whiney whitebreads from California called the Beach Boys) and available from Rhino, too.

**FOR THE REAL COLLECTOR:** Head down to your local used record store and search down Warner Brothers Records' yearly promotional Christmas albums. These records are sent to radio stations and reviewers and contain short Christmas messages for radio uses as well as some of the more recent radio hits (the Pretenders' "2000 Miles," Julie Brown's mall-rat anthem "My Night Before Christmas," and Prince's "Another Lonely Christmas") and quick, usually amusing knock-offs of the standards (Los Lobos' acoustic instrumental version of "The Christmas Song" and R.E.M.'s "Deck The Halls"). Worth the cost for Joey Ramone's Christmas wishes to his fans from the 1987 edition.

Now, of course, no run-down on Christmas records in this magazine would be complete without a mention of Boston Rock's own "A Boston Rock Christmas." The band Christmas' "O Holy Night" and Native Tongue's "Do You Hear What I Hear)" are post-punk delights, dissonant, rough and delightful all at once. Sonny Columbus and his Del Fuegos' "That Punch-bowl Full of Joy" is, in my mind, one of the better and earliest moments of the famous Boston quartet's career, and the most drunk, fun-loving rock 'n' roll Christmas song I know.

**WHERE TO FIND:** Nearly all of the records and discs heretofore mentioned can be purchased at catalog-oriented record stores and the mail-order operation Roundup Records, P.O. Box 154, North Cambridge, MA 02140. Tell 'em I sent ya, and have a cool yule, y'all.

PETE DONOVAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW





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